IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please CANCEL claims 1-19 without prejudice or disclaimer and ADD new claims 20-37 in accordance with the following:

1-19. (Cancelled)

20. (New) A method of displaying a personal connection map that includes a plurality of nodes representing persons and a plurality of links representing personal connections among the persons and strengths of the personal connections, the method comprising:

extracting metadata of the persons from among electronic data that include information about the persons;

linking the metadata extracted based on a co-occurring relationship of the information about the persons in the electronic data;

storing the metadata linked as secondary metadata into a database;

retrieving, from the database, secondary metadata that satisfy a filter condition; and

displaying the personal connection map based on the secondary metadata retrieved.

21. (New) The method according to claim 20, wherein the displaying includes displaying, when a closed loop is formed by N nodes and N links in the personal connection map, the personal connection map from which a first link representing a weakest personal connection among the N links is eliminated so that the personal connection map has a tree structure and includes the N nodes and N-1 links other than the first link, where N is an integer greater than one.

22. (New) The method according to claim 20, wherein the nodes are correlated with a time-line in the personal connection map.

23. (New) The method according to claim 20, further comprising displaying, when a plurality of nodes are selected from the personal connection map, a suitable venue for assembly of persons represented by the nodes selected.

24. (New) The method according to claim 23, further comprising displaying an effect on an environment caused by the persons assembling to the venue.

25. (New) The method according to claim 24, wherein the effect on the environment is CO_2 emission.

26. (New) A computer-readable medium encoded with a computer program for displaying a personal connection map that includes a plurality of nodes representing persons and a plurality of links representing personal connections among the persons and strengths of the personal connections, comprising:

extracting metadata of the persons from among electronic data that include information about the persons;

linking the metadata extracted based on a co-occurring relationship of the information about the persons in the electronic data;

storing the metadata linked as secondary metadata into a database;

retrieving, from the database, secondary metadata that satisfy a filter condition; and

displaying the personal connection map based on the secondary metadata retrieved.

27. (New) The computer-readable medium according to claim 26, wherein the displaying includes displaying, when a closed loop is formed by N nodes and N links in the personal connection map, the personal connection map from which a first link representing a weakest personal connection among the N links is eliminated so that the personal connection map has a tree structure and includes the N nodes and N-1 links other than the first link, where N is an integer greater than one.

28. (New) The computer-readable medium according to claim 26, wherein the nodes are correlated with a time-line in the personal connection map.

29. (New) The computer-readable medium according to claim 26, wherein the computer program further causes the computer to execute displaying, when a plurality of nodes are selected from the personal connection map, a suitable venue for assembly of persons represented by the nodes selected.

30. (New) The computer-readable medium according to claim 29, wherein the computer program further causes the computer to execute displaying an effect on an environment caused by the persons assembling to the venue.

31. (New) The computer-readable medium according to claim 30, wherein the effect on the environment is CO_2 emission.

32. (New) An apparatus for displaying a personal connection map that includes a plurality of nodes representing persons and a plurality of links representing personal connections among the persons and strengths of the personal connections, comprising:

an extracting unit that extracts metadata of the persons from among electronic data that include information about the persons;

a linking unit that links the metadata extracted based on a co-occurring relationship of the information about the persons in the electronic data;

a database that stores therein the metadata linked as secondary metadata;

a retrieving unit that retrieves, from the database, secondary metadata that satisfy a filter condition; and

a displaying unit that displays the personal connection map based on the secondary metadata retrieved.

33. (New) The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the displaying unit displays, when a closed loop is formed by N nodes and N links in the personal connection map, the personal connection map from which a first link representing a weakest personal connection among the N links is eliminated so that the personal connection map has a tree structure and includes the N nodes and N-1 links other than the first link, where N is an integer greater than one.

34. (New) The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the nodes are correlated with a time-line in the personal connection map.

35. (New) The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the displaying unit further displays, when a plurality of nodes are selected from the personal connection map, a suitable venue for assembly of persons represented by the nodes selected.

36. (New) The apparatus according to claim 35, wherein the displaying unit further displays an effect on an environment caused by the persons assembling to the venue.

37. (New) The apparatus according to claim 36, wherein the effect on the environment is CO_2 emission.